

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 256-2005**



**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** October 3, 2005

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge M. Gonzalez".

**Subject: WASHINGTON AVENUE STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
STATUS REPORT**

**BACKGROUND**

The City has been pursuing the improvement of Washington Avenue in recognition of its status as one of the City's significant pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfares. A Master Plan consisting of five phases of improvements was previously developed and partially implemented. The phases are as follows:

- Phase 1 - The area from 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Streets which consisted of sidewalk, roadway and drainage improvements, and the planting of coconut trees. This construction was completed several years ago.
- Phase 2 - The area from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Streets which includes curb, gutter and sidewalk replacement, drainage and paving improvements, new street lighting and the planting of coconut trees.
- Phase 3 - The area from 6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Streets which consisted of the reconstruction of the medians and the installation of shade trees, landscaping, irrigation, and pavers. This work was completed.
- Phase 4 - The area from 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Streets which includes roadway and drainage improvements, and new street lighting.
- Phase 5 - The area from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Streets which includes curb, gutter and sidewalk replacement, roadway and drainage improvements, street lighting, planting of coconut trees and median landscaping.

Planning/Design for the remaining phases 2, 4 and 5 has been underway for some time. The City determined that a design-build approach would be the best method for expediting the completion of these remaining phases of the project. The City's typical process begins with the City hiring an A/E firm to plan and design a project and then a construction firm to build the project. Under the design-build approach, one project consultant team with both design and construction expertise and qualifications prepares construction documents and constructs the project.

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A Design Criteria Package (DCP), required by State Statute in a design / build process, for the Project was prepared by the City's ROW Improvements Program Manager, Hazen & Sawyer. The DCP included conceptual construction drawings and technical specifications for the civil, electrical, and landscaping disciplines. For the Washington Avenue Improvement Project, the Design Build Firm (DBF) is responsible for the design, construction and construction management of the above noted improvements for Phases 2, 4 and 5 of the Washington Avenue Master Plan. The City Commission authorized the Administration on October 15, 2003 to initiate negotiations with the DBF of Ric-Man International, Inc. (RMI) since the submitted price by RMI was approximately 26% over the City's available funding to perform the project.

It is important to note that the base bid also included the necessary effort to plan, design and permit signature landscape improvements within the medians between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets and between 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Road, the latter of which was not originally included in the Master Plan for the project. The base bid did not include the cost to construct the proposed improvements. The DBF obtained an Order from the Historic Preservation Board for the signature median improvements; the City will negotiate a change order for the implementation of the signature landscape median improvements with the DBF. Approximately \$125,000 in signature median improvements is anticipated at both ends of Washington Avenue. However, funding for these prospective change orders was not in the base bid.

### **CURRENT STATUS**

To date, the DBF has completed engineering plans to support its water main, sanitary sewer, stormwater collection and disposal, street lighting, hardscape and landscape improvements. The DBF has completed water main construction from 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. Sanitary sewer construction along 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets was completed and placed into operation.

The DBF has completed the installation of street light conduit, electrical pull boxes and pedestals from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Streets along the northbound parking lane and along the southbound parking lane from 16<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Streets. The installation of conductor (wire) and the pedestrian light fixtures is complete along the east side of Washington Avenue from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Street. . The DBF also completed the sidewalk demolition and sidewalk replacement along the east side of Washington Avenue from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to just south of 16<sup>th</sup> Street and along the west side of Washington Avenue from 16<sup>th</sup> to Española Way. The next activities contemplated along the 16<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Street west Work Zone consists of the street light conductor (wire) installation, street light fixture installation and landscaping installation.

The initiation of the main work along the Washington Avenue corridor including certain stormwater infrastructure and gravity disposal wells was initiated upon receipt of the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Class V, Group 6 Well Construction Permit. The vast majority of the stormwater drainage associated work has been completed along the east side of Washington Avenue from 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Streets and

along the west side of Washington Avenue from 16<sup>th</sup> Street to 13<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Streets and 9<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Streets. A few gravity disposal wells remain to be completed at this time. Upon completion and authorization to place into service by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the DBF shall place the drainage system into operation.

Landscaping activities have not progressed since the DBF has not been able to secure the specified palm tree material. It appears that the previous season's storms have decreased the availability of the specified palm tree materials. Discussions are ongoing between the DBF and City staff to resolve this item. Also, progress on the electrical service point installation / FPL connection has not progressed to the City's satisfaction. The DBF is addressing this concern with its specialty subcontractor and it is anticipated that FPL's resources have been re-directed to assist with damage recovery efforts in the Gulf coast states.

Final planning efforts for the median landscaping proposed along Washington Avenue from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Streets and between 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Lincoln Road have been completed. A Community Design Workshop to present the DBF's concepts and obtain community input took place in March 2005. HPB approval was granted in June 2005. Final design plans have been prepared by the DBF and submitted to the Planning Department for review / input. The businesses and residents are being kept informed of all activities by a full time public information officer (PIO) who has an office on Washington Avenue. Also, the City's Highway Advisory Radio (HAR) system was placed into service. The HAR is being utilized to advise motorists of the project's current maintenance of traffic.

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c: Tim Hemstreet, Assistant City Manager  
Jorge E. Chartrand, Acting CIP Office Director

